

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Ryan Leary

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: N/A

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 11.9 J. Other 9. "Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoir and springs and those to protect small study plots."

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2015-0024-CX

Project Name: Plumas Grazing Allotment Swale Exclosure

Project Description: There is a low flow of water on some spots in an incised remnant spring area in the northwest corner of the Plumas Grazing Allotment in the West Pasture. A fence would protect this area from excessive cattle use. The project would build a 0.7 mile exclosure fence which may initially be temporary while the cattle are in the pasture and be replaced by a permanent fence based on the permit holder's schedule. The temporary fence would be constructed of electric fence tape and t-posts. The fences would have the Specifications and Requirements below.

Specifications and Requirements

Temporary Fence

The temporary fence would be constructed of electric fence tape and t-posts. The t-posts would be placed every 6 to 7 feet as needed to maintain tension on the tape. The tape would be charged by battery or generator at the discretion of the permit holder. The permit holder would supply labor and materials for the temporary fence. The range staff or support services staff would perform inspection on completion.

Permanent Fence and Gates

- Work would be performed by permittee and inspected the BLM.
- Fence Specifications. The fence would be a 4-wire "Cattle with Antelope Fence" whose design would draw on both the wildlife and engineering specifications as authorized by BLM Fencing Handbook H-1741-1 p IV-1 which references "Fences" USDI/USDA and BLM's Engineering Standard Drawings (See attached drawing Barbed Wire Fence Nevada (4-wire x 16 ½ feet) NV02834-(53)).
 - Fence would comply with the Barbed Wire Fence Nevada (4-wire x 16 ½ feet) NV02834-(53) specifications with the following wire spacing exceptions.

- Bottom wire (smooth) would be 18 inches from the ground (antelope and fawns);
 - At least 12 inches between the top two wires (deer);
 - Total height would be no more than 42 inches, preferably 40 inches (deer);
 - Other wire spacings are to be determined, with rationale provided, and would be based on the Engineering Guide Specifications and Engineering Standard Drawings
- The enclosure would have a gate at the east and west ends for the removal of wildlife or cattle.
 - **Gate Specifications:** A 16 foot steel frame “powder river” gate would be welded to the fence brace post. The steel gate increases the likelihood of the gate being closed after someone goes through it due to the ease of opening and closing the steel gate as opposed to the wire type gates.
 - The gate shall be hung flush on one side of the brace post so that the hinges allow the gate to swing completely open and lay flush up against the fence when open. The gate shall be kept closed at all times except during actual pass through. The gate shall have a latch or chain to keep it closed, it shall not be locked. The chain shall be welded or attached to the gate to prevent lose.

Applicant Name: Tracy Clark

Project Location (include Township/Range, County): T22N R17E, Sec. 15 Lassen County

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Nine acres.

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): This action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001); Reference and page number citation: Implementation Level Decisions, WAT-2, 1. “Water quality will be improved through development of watershed management plans and protection of riparian areas.”

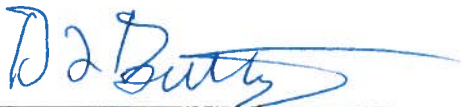
Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]?		X
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		X
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office?		X
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)?		X
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)?		X
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)?		X

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS.

Approved by:

ACTIVE
FOR

Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

5-19-2015
(date)

Does this CX constitute the decision document for this Proposed Action? ☐ Yes ☒ No (see attached Decision Record).